



TENNESSEE WEEKLY  
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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CORN HARVEST IN FULL SWING

Plenty of sunshine and dry weather last week allowed Tennessee farmers to make excellent harvest progress. Corn producers pushed efforts into high gear and harvested a fifth of the grain acreage during the week. The majority of the corn crop had reached maturity, just slightly behind the 5-year average. The State’s dairy producers took advantage of the weather, as over 80 percent of the corn silage harvest was completed, while tobacco growers also made headway with harvest, advancing more than 10 percentage points from a week earlier. Cotton defoliation continued, as 36 percent of the cotton acreage had open bolls. As of Sunday, nearly a fourth of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves and conditions remained mostly good-to-excellent. Other field activities last week included harvesting hay, applying fertilizer to fall forage crops, and clipping pastures. Temperatures averaged near normal for the week, while rainfall averaged below normal across the state. There were 6 days considered suitable for field work last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 15 percent short, 81 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus, while subsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 12 percent short, 84 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through September 14, 2003					CONDITION: On September 12, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Mature	91	79	96	93	Cotton	0	4	19	60	17
Corn - Harvest	36	16	64	59	Soybeans	0	2	14	57	27
Corn Silage - Harvest	83	73	95	91	Pastures	0	4	19	59	18
Cotton - Bolls Opening	36	29	70	80						
Cotton - Defoliated	6	1	38	40						
Cotton - Harvested	0	N/A	4	5						
Soybeans - Dropping Leaves	22	13	29	30						
Tobacco - Burley Harvested	70	53	70	74						
Tobacco - Air Cured Harvested	82	71	82	84						
Tobacco - Fire Cured Harvested	66	53	74	77						

**CORN:** Farmers made good progress last week harvesting their corn crop, but still lagged over a week behind the normal pace. Above average yields were reported in many areas, especially West Tennessee.

**COTTON:** As of Sunday, over a third of the cotton acreage had open bolls. The State’s cotton crop remained in mostly good condition with defoliation underway in the major producing counties.

**SOYBEANS:** Nearly a fourth of the soybean acreage was dropping leaves, lagging behind last year and the 5-year average. There were a few reports of disease pressure. Early harvest continued for some Group III beans.

**TOBACCO:** Although development of all tobacco progressed slightly behind normal, growers made good harvest progress last week. Dry weather during the week also helped slow down the advance of blue mold.

**PASTURES & HAY:** Many growers took advantage of last week’s clear weather to cut hay. Pastures remained in mostly good condition as many farmers applied fertilizers. Some livestock producers experienced pinkeye problems with their cattle, especially weaning calves, and treated as necessary.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 09/14/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 09/14/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	09/14/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	89	57	74	+2	0.58	1	51.78	+14.59	2236	+48
Tri-City_RGNL_A	82	51	67	-3	0.01	1	51.40	+21.32	1542	+31
Brownsville_TN	87	59	75	+2	0.86	1	42.28	+5.09	2409	+463
Chattanooga/Lov	85	59	73	-2	0.32	1	50.72	+12.46	2192	+101
Clarksville_Sew	87	58	74	+3	0.00	0	36.07	+0.10	2123	+162
Cookeville	85	57	70	-2	0.03	1	50.19	+9.30	1705	+474
Covington	87	57	73	-1	0.82	1	41.29	+5.01	2131	-99
Crossville_AP	79	57	68	+0	0.12	3	50.56	+10.46	1535	+139
Dickson_AG	83	49	68	-5	0.01	1	42.76	+4.36	1609	-434
Dover_1W	84	56	71	+0	0.70	2	43.06	+5.75	1931	+186
Dyersburg	86	57	72	-2	0.52	1	37.04	+1.52	2259	-108
Erwin_1W	82	52	67	-2	0.01	1	41.94	+5.42	1468	-327
Huntingdon_Wate	87	55	72	-1	0.36	1	41.41	+3.95	2052	+193
Jackson_AG	89	55	73	+0	0.63	1	38.32	+1.45	2190	+52
Kingston_AG	82	57	70	+0	0.12	2	50.36	+8.33	1761	+142
Knoxville_AP	83	60	71	-1	0.10	2	46.10	+11.73	1977	+164
Lewisburg	87	51	70	-2	0.38	1	48.50	+9.59	1841	+16
Lexington_TN	87	55	72	-2	0.35	1	43.35	+7.42	2037	+716
Linden	87	44	69	-4	0.24	1	47.84	+8.35	1803	-33
Martin	87	55	73	+1	0.55	1	43.80	+6.37	2093	+44
Mc_Minnville_Tn	84	57	72	+0	0.28	1	46.47	+8.29	1954	-313
Memphis_AG	90	59	75	-2	1.30	1	43.55	+7.14	2341	-300
Milan	88	54	72	+0	0.17	1	41.10	+2.62	2095	+94
Murfreesboro_5N	86	58	72	-2	0.03	1	45.18	+7.08	1950	-308
Nashville_Metro	87	60	74	+1	0.91	1	46.47	+12.30	2131	-18
Newcomb	82	56	69	+2	0.66	1	51.87	+12.36	1573	+257
Oneida	82	57	69	+2	0.03	1	46.91	+7.40	1550	-380
Pikeville	84	57	71	-1	0.24	2	51.05	+12.77	1904	+127
Portland_TN	85	58	71	+0	0.27	1	43.91	+6.93	1825	+40
Pulaski_Water_P	86	56	70	-4	0.65	1	45.85	+6.83	1944	-195
Savannah_6SW	89	56	72	-3	0.02	1	54.17	+14.00	1934	+41
Sparta_TN	86	56	72	+2	0.66	3	53.10	+13.65	1936	+395
Springfield	86	57	71	+1	0.20	1	38.75	+3.28	1853	+64
Springhill	89	54	72	+1	0.35	1	47.40	+8.37	2036	+215
Union_City	87	54	71	+0	0.47	1	40.21	+3.71	1952	-34
Waynesboro_TN	87	53	70	-1	0.15	1	49.31	+8.32	1850	-208

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).    GDD = Growing Degree Days.  
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.    Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
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